Research Notes for Mary Hogan Emperor (1816 - 1896)

Research Overview:

Mary Hogan was born in 1816, near Brosna, County Kerry, Ireland. Her parents are not identified, and her early life is thinly documented. She appears consistently in later records as part of a Hogan family rooted in the Kerry–Cork border region. Her marriage to Thomas Emperor before 1839 places her within a small, tightly clustered family network bearing his unusual and rare surname. What makes Mary compelling is not the detail of her early records, but the way later evidence—both documentary and genetic—suggests connections within a broader Hogan kin group that remains only partially resolved.

Mary married Thomas Emperor in Ireland, possibly in County Kerry or County Cork, and their children were born there before emigrating. The births of her children place the family in Ireland through at least 1843, with Cork named as the location for several events. Like her husband, Mary's migration to the United States is not cleanly documented. Passenger records and later censuses raise questions about whether the family traveled together and when they arrived, but by the mid-1860s, Mary appears in New York census records and later in Michigan.

In the United States, Mary's life is documented primarily through census records, the households of her children, and her death record. By 1880, she was living in Wyoming Township, Kent County, Michigan, with Thomas and a grandson. Her later years were spent in Grand Rapids, where she died in 1896 of Bright's disease and was buried at St. Andrew's Cemetery. These records establish continuity of identity and residence but reveal little about Mary beyond her roles as wife, mother, and widow.

The most significant unresolved questions in Mary Hogan Emperor's life concern her family of origin. DNA evidence points to strong connections with other Hogans from the Brosna area, including Jeremiah Hogan, who may have been her brother. These genetic links suggest a larger Hogan family network in the Kerry–Cork border region, but the documentary evidence is needed to define specific relationships.

Time Line:

22 Apr 1816 - Birth possibly at Brosna, Kerry, Ireland.[1]

1818 - Birth of brother Thomas Hogan (1818 -) at County Kerry, Ireland.[2]

1838 - Marriage to Thomas Emperor (1815 - 1896), possible date and possibly in County Kerry or County Cork, Ireland.

1839 - Birth of daughter Helen Emperor (1839 - 1880) at Cork, Ireland.[3]

20 Jun 1840 - Birth of son John T Emperor (1840 - 1914) at Ireland.[4]

2 Feb 1841 - Birth of daughter Mary Elizabeth Emperor (1841 - 1921) in Ireland.[5]

Jun 1843 - Birth of daughter Mary Ellen "Nellie" Emperor (1843 - 1904) at Cork, Ireland.[6]

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[1] Birth record needed

[2] Birth of brother Thomas Hogan

[3] Marriage to Mary Hogan to Thomas Emperor

[4] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVK1-QV1S : 3 June 2020), John T. Emperor, 1914; Burial, , ; citing record ID , *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[5] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVKD-57XT: 23 August 2022), Mary Emperor Laughlin, ; Burial, Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, Michigan, United States of America, Riverside Catholic Cemetery; citing record ID 39098270, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[6] "Michigan Death Certificates, 1921-1952", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KF32-KR9: Sun Jul 21 19:23:36 UTC 2024), Entry for Mary E Roach and Charles P Mcevoy, 19 Mar 1935.

11 Dec 1850 - Arrival at Boston, Massachusetts.[7]

It is unclear whether this arrival refers to Mary Hogan Emperor.

1865 - New York Census.[8]

1880 - U.S. Census, at Wyoming, Kent, Michigan.[9]

Thomas Emperor, 64

Mary Emperor, 63

Thomas McShane, 15

1880 - Death of daughter Helen Emperor McShane (1813 - 1880) at Detroit, Wayne, Michigan. [10]

Sep 1888 - Death of brother Jeremiah Hogan (1796 - 1888) at Tralee, Kerry, Ireland. [11]

Possible sibling of Mary Hogan Emperor.

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[7] "Massachusetts, Index to Boston Passenger Lists, 1848-1891", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV51-7Q2V: Fri Mar 08 16:52:33 UTC 2024), Entry for Ellen Emperor, 1853.

[8] "New York State Census, 1865", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVNF-PQ8T: Tue Jul 16 12:11:07 UTC 2024), Entry for Thomas Emperer and Mary Emperer, 1865.

[9] "United States Census, 1870", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MHHT-BKW: Tue Mar 05 08:57:33 UTC 2024), Entry for John Emperson and Margaret Emperson, 1870.

[10] Death of daughter Helen Emperor McShane

[11] Death of possible brother Jeremiah Hogan probably Ireland

1894 - Michigan Census

The 1894 Michigan state census asked mothers how many children they had and how many were living. Search this census for all MI mothers on the 1894 census.

26 Feb 1896 - Death at Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan. [12]

Feb 1896 - Obituary

“EMPEROR – Feb. 26, at No. 117 Earl street, of Bright’s disease, Mary Emperor, age 80 years. Burial at St. Andrew’s cemetery.

Grand Rapids Herald

28 Feb 1896

p. 3”

Feb - Burial at St. Andrews Cemetery in Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan.[13]

[12] "Michigan Deaths, 1867-1897", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N3KK-RQV: Sun Jul 07 01:28:28 UTC 2024), Entry for Mary Emperor, 26 Feb 1896.

[13] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVK1-QV13: 9 June 2021), Mary Hogan Emperor, ; Burial, Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan, United States of America, Saint Andrews Catholic Cemetery; citing record ID 53223037, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

Appendix:

A.

PHallihan and my DNA Match: On 4/13/15, I uploaded my DNA to GedMatch, and it says it could take a couple of days to "batch". I believe that MPHallihan and I are related through Mary Driscoll from New York. I believe her mother, or one of her grandparents, will be a Hogan. Perhaps Martin Driscoll and Hannah Hogan? My ancestor is Mary Hogan, who married John Emperor. Mary Driscoll will be from the border of County Kerry and County Cork. I have many ancestors from around the area of Brosna, County Kerry, Ireland. Some who lived over the border in County Cork. Do you have her 1899 New York state death record? You should try to get that and a copy of her 1899 New York obituary. It will start to answer many of your questions.

B.

We have significant DNA matches to Jeremiah Hogan. Are Jeremiah Hogan and Mary Hogan Emperor, both from Brosna, County Kerry, Ireland, siblings? Who were their parents, and what evidence exists for identifying other siblings in their family?